



National Archives Canada

Over the River and Through the Woods: Getting Around Southern Illinois

Quotation Citations

Component # 1-4

"A trip by canoe...on foot...on horseback...sometimes passing several nights without sleeping...sometimes trembling with fear through a whole pitch-black night...sometimes with the rain on my body...in the morning freezing with cold, and at noon scorched by the heat of the sun...such is my life at Illinois. Pity me, or rather my soul; pray for it."--Father Pierre Gibault. Quoted in Clarence W. Alvord, *The Illinois Country, 1673-1818* (Chicago, 1965), p. 272.

Component # 2-2

"Some rows up, but we rows down, All the way to Shawnee town, Pull away—pull away!"--Traditional river song. Quoted in Leland D. Baldwin, *The Keelboat Age on Western Waters* (Pittsburgh, 1941), p. 91

Component # 2-9

"We saw...two painted monsters....They had horns on their heads...a horrible look, red eyes, a beard...a face somewhat like a man's body covered with scales...." --Father Jacques Marquette. Quoted in Louise P. Kellogg, ed. *Early Narratives of the Northwest, 1634-1699* (New York, 1917), p. 248.

Component # 2-11

"a tradition existed among the savages, that there was on the banks of the Mississippi, below the Missouri, a Maniteau or Spirit, which it was impossible for any being to pass."--John Mason Peck, *Guide for Emigrants* (New York, 1975 [1831]), p. 263.

Component # 2-15

"the canoes were driven by the violence of the waves against the shore and filled with water."--Meriwether Lewis. Quoted in Gary Moulton, ed. *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, vol. 2 (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1986), p. 93.

Component # 2-22

"overtook two keels from Louisville [sic] bound to Kaskaskias loaded with dry goods and whiskey...met two keeled boats

loaded with firs [sic] for New-Orleans"--Meriwether Lewis. Quoted in Gary Moulton, ed. *The Journal of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, vol. 2 (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1986), p. 101.

Component # 2-26

"Today we passed two large rafts lashed together, by which...several families... were transporting themselves and their property...Each raft was eighty or ninety feet long, with a small house erected on it; and...stack of hay, round which several horses and cows were feeding, while...the ploughs, wagons, pigs, children, and poultry...gave to the whole more the appearance of a permanent residence, than a caravan of adventurers seeking a home."--Hall, James. Quoted in Stephen Leonard and Melinda F. Kwedar, *The Great Migration: Transportation and Settlement in Illinois, 1800-1850* (Springfield, 1989), p. 3.

Component # 2-33

"Between St. Louis and Cairo the steamboat wrecks average one to the mile;—two hundred wrecks, altogether."--Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi* (Boston, 1883), p. 278.

Component # 2-34

"The expression 'Hell afloat'...out to have been reserved for a small high pressure steam-boat in the summer months...the sun darting his fierce rays down upon the roof above you...the deck beneath your feet so heated by the furnaces below...It is, really, a fiery furnace."--Frederick Marryat, *A Diary in America: with remarks on its institutions* (London, 1839).

Component # 2-25

"Thousands pass up and down the rivers as deck passengers, especially emigrating families, who have their bedding, provisions and cooking utensils on board."--John Mason Peck, "Suggestions to Emigrants," in *A gazetteer of Illinois in three parts* (Philadelphia, 1834).

Component # 3-2

"The manner of traveling...must be suited to the party. Horseback is the most pleasant and expeditious; on foot the

cheapest: a light wagon is eligible in some cases; in others the stage is the necessary evil.”--Morris Birkbeck, “Letters from Illinois,” in *Notes on a Journey in America: From the coast of Virginia to the territory of Illinois* (London, 1818), p. 15.

Component # 3-3

Way down upon the Wabash Such land was never known; If Adam had passed over it, The soil he'd surely own; He'd think it was the garden He'd played in when a boy And straight pronounce it Eden, In the state of El-a-noy.”--Early pioneer song. Quoted in Bill Nunes, *Incredible Illinois* (St. Louis, 2004), p. 57

Component # 3-6

“The ground was very loose and muddy...Walking through it, the mud came practically up to my knees.”--Frederick Julius Gustorf. Quoted in Fred Gustorf, ed. *The Uncorrupted Heart, Journal and Letters of Frederick Julius Gustorf, 1800-1845* (Columbia, MO, 1969), p. 125.

Component # 3-8

“If one does not have a horse in this part of the country he is just as badly off as a human being without legs.”--Frederick Julius Gustorf. Quoted in Fred Gustorf, *The Uncorrupted Heart, Journal and Letters of Frederick Julius Gustorf, 1800-1845* (Columbia, MO, 1969), p. 125.

Component # 3-11

“Towards the middle of our trip several of our mounts tired out, developed saddle sores and refused to give further service, thus forcing us...to walk.”--Father Dom Urban Guillet. Quoted in John F. McDermott, ed. *Old Cahokia: A Narrative and Documents Illustrating the First Century of Its History* (St. Louis, 1949), p. 292.

Component # 3-16

“Roads as yet are in a state of nature.”--Morris Birkbeck, “Letters from Illinois,” in *Notes on a Journey in America* (London, 1818), p. 14.

Component # 3-19

“A wheel broke into twelve pieces. Twice the wagon was upset by the terrible roads and once it broke down.”--Father Dom Urban Guillet. Quoted in John F. McDermott, ed. *Old Cahokia: A Narrative and Documents Illustrating the First Century of Its History* (St. Louis, 1949), p. 292.

Component # 3-26

“There was no bridge or other means of crossing the river...my companion wanted to drive down the steep slope without getting out of the vehicle...the wagon...turned over, and the horses dragged it into the river.”--Frederick Julius Gustorf. Quoted in Fred Gustorf, ed. *The Uncorrupted Heart,*

Journal and Letters of Frederick Julius Gustorf, 1800-1845 (Columbia, MO, 1969), p. 60.

Component # 3-29

“The heat and dust in crossing the bottom were truly oppressive...the dust gets beaten to an impalpable powder, which the lightest movement raises in clouds.”--William Oliver, *Eight Months in Illinois* (New Castle Upon Tyne, 1843), p. 90.

Component # 3-33

“Homemade carts constructed altogether of wood, and drawn by one horse or pony, were in general use the French habitants, and their only means for transportation and travel. A few, very few of the most opulent citizens had eastern-made, or imported carriages...The two-horse farm wagons...invariably belonged to American settlers.”--John F. Snyder. Quoted in Clyde C. Walton, ed. *John Francis Snyder: Selected Writings* (Springfield, Illinois, 1962), p. 92.

Component # 3-36

“In the winter, both...high waters and bad roads sometimes prevent stages from running regularly.”--John Mason Peck, “Suggestions to Emigrants,” in *A gazetteer of Illinois in three parts*. (Philadelphia, 1834).

Component # 3-38

“I traveled by United States Mail to St. Louis.”--Frederick Julius Gustorf. Quoted in Fred Gustorf, ed. *The Uncorrupted Heart, Journal and Letters of Frederick Julius Gustorf, 1800-1845* (Columbia, MO, 1969), p. 65.

Component # 3-39a

“...if roads, trackways, railroads, and canals, are 3-now laid out, they can be made straight between most of the important points, with very little expense.”--Illinois Governor Duncan. Quoted in Robert P Howard, *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* (Grand Rapids, 1972) p. 197-8.

Component # 4-5

“They said they ran away...and came part of the way in a wagon—part of the way in a steam boat & part of the way a foot.”--Nathan Olmsted Ferris. Quoted in Carol Pirtle, *Escape Betwixt Two Suns: The True Tale of the Underground Railroad in Illinois* (Carbondale, 2000), p. 91-2.

Component # 5-18a

“The number of wagons, horses, and passengers crossing, and waiting to cross the Ohio [to Shawneetown, Illinois], was so great, that a great part of the morning was spent in waiting for my turn.”--William Tell Harris. Quoted in S.J. Buck, *Illinois in 1818*. (Urbana, Illinois, 1967), p. 69-70.